

choices necessary to create a prosperous future for its people. The contrast in the Middle East between those that seek a peaceful, negotiated solution to a conflict that has gone on far too long, and those that oppose this path, has never been clearer. We must use every tool at our disposal to support those who seek to build the institutions of free societies in the Middle East. The promotion of a strong, prosperous Palestinian economy is a critical component in this struggle, and we commend President Abbas and Prime Minister Fayyad for their efforts and assure them of our continued support.

HONORING CONGRESSIONAL CERTIFICATE OF MERIT RECIPIENT  
BOBBY LINDSEY

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the successes and achievements of Bobby Lindsey, who has received the Congressional Certificate of Merit award at Round Rock High School in Round Rock, Texas. Bobby has shown exceptional leadership qualities through his involvement in numerous activities which makes him a great candidate for this award.

Bobby has been involved in band throughout high school and is a volunteer and tutor for English as a second language students. Outside of school, Bobby works as a volunteer with people who are learning to speak English.

I congratulate Bobby Lindsey for his achievements in school and in his community and am proud to represent such talented and dedicated people in the 31st District of Texas.

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND JOB  
CREATION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. NITA M. LOWEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 6049, the Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act. This important legislation would provide critical tax relief to families coping with increased costs of gas and food, while continuing our national investment in renewable energy and conservation programs to reduce our dependence on foreign oil. I am particularly pleased that this legislation includes \$3 billion in energy conservation bonds to help States reduce greenhouse gases.

Protecting the environment for future generations is a collective responsibility. We must each do our part to leave a better, cleaner world than the one we inherited. That has been a guiding principle for my efforts in Congress, and it is our mutual obligation.

Recently, both Rockland County and Westchester County in my district in New York have joined communities nationwide moving to reduce our dependence on foreign oil by passing plastic bag recycling laws.

We know that the production of plastic bags and film plastic worldwide uses over 12 million

barrels of oil per year, accounting for more than 4 percent of the world's total oil production. We also know the disturbing truth that in the United States we use more than 1 billion plastic bags a year, and less than 1 percent of those bags are recycled. Even more troubling, the Environmental Protection Agency estimates the average plastic bag takes up to 1,000 years to decompose—in the process breaking down into smaller pieces that contaminate our soil and waterways and cause injury, illness or death to marine and animal life.

I recently introduced H. Res. 1161 to honor retailers and those State and local governments throughout the nation that have taken similar proactive steps to tackle this critical energy and environmental challenge. In the coming weeks I will also be introducing legislation to establish a national program promoting plastic bag recycling at our retail outlets, and I look forward to working with the members of the Ways and Means Committee, the Energy and Commerce Committee, and the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming to tackle this issue.

Thank you again to Chairman RANGEL for your leadership on these critically important issues, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6049.

EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. STEVE CHABOT**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Requesting Member: Congressman STEVE CHABOT.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658, The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.

Account: Aircraft Procurement, Army.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: The National Guard Association of the United States.

Address of Requesting Entity: One Massachusetts Avenue, NW., Washington, DC. 20001, (202) 789-0031.

Description of Request: The National Guard and the active Army have developed a two-pronged program to support the continued modernization of the National Guard Black Hawk fleet, however, it is not fully funded. The National Guard wants to accelerate the fielding of "M" series Black Hawks by 10 aircraft per year. In addition, the Army is recapitalizing Army National Guard UH-60A helicopters with a UH-60A recapitalization program funded in the Operations and Maintenance accounts. This program includes an airframe life extension, fleet-wide product improvements and the replacements of components with the latest configurations, however the portion of the program to upgrade the recapitalized UH-60A to the UH-60L configuration is not funded. Upgrading to the UH-60L provides a Black Hawk that is cheaper to operate and one that has 1,000 pounds greater lift than the UH-60A model. A rate of 38 upgrades per year is required to enable Army National Guard units to upgrade or replace all the UH-60As at pace with the active Army.

TROUBLING REPORTS OF MISPLACED PRIORITIES IN THE ADMINISTRATION'S HURRICANE EVACUATIONS PLANS

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, officials recently participating in a Texas hurricane evacuation drill were shocked to learn that the Border Patrol, CBP, planned to check the citizenship or immigration status of the people that they were helping to evacuate. Such a policy is fraught with problems. One car with a flat tire can back up an evacuation for hundreds of miles. Just think about how disruptive and dangerous immigration checkpoints would be, and how many people would remain in harm's way for fear of arrest.

The outrage in Texas, and across the country, was instantaneous. Other law enforcement agencies, State officials, and the press condemned the announcement, and DHS started backpedaling. But this was not an isolated incident or just a mistake. Rather, this comes on the heels of other evacuations in which DHS' priorities have been confused. Such as the California fires in which undocumented aliens were afraid to risk immigration checkpoints and died in the flames. And the administration's refusal to suspend immigration enforcement in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, as had been done after September 11. The immigration enforcement mission must be carried out in the proper context; in the face of a natural disaster or mass casualty event, public safety and humanitarian exigencies must take priority.

We asked for an immediate briefing to get to the bottom of this. Just hours before they were supposed to come brief us, the Border Patrol suddenly said that they had reassessed the policy in light of last week's exercise. They told us that CBP's "primary role in such events will be the safeguarding of life. No enforcement role will be undertaken that will in any way impede the safe and orderly evacuation of any member of the south Texas population." Frankly, I would have been more reassured if the CBP's purported change in policy had not been couched in such equivocal terms.

Later yesterday, Secretary Chertoff stated that "Priority Number One" will be "the safe evacuation of people who are leaving the danger zone." He said that clear instructions have been given to the Border Patrol "to do nothing to impede a safe and speedy evacuation of a danger zone."

So the message seems to have been heard. Rest assured that we will be watching to make sure that the focus truly is on having all hands on deck for humanitarian and evacuation needs, as opposed to diverting DHS resources into ill-conceived—and dangerous—immigration enforcement.

I am very troubled by this episode. It comes on the heels of revelations in recent weeks about medical abuse of immigration detainees. And it comes in the wake of a massive raid in Iowa that disrupted a Department of Labor investigation and resulted in assembly line arrest and prosecution of workers, but not of those who may have abused them. This cascade of controversy leads me to pose one